

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for changing the playback rate of recorded speech includes memory storing a plurality of recorded speech messages and a  
5 plurality of feature tables. Each feature table is associated with an individual one of the speech messages and includes speech frame parameters based on the jitter states of speech frames of the associated recorded speech message. A playback module receives input specifying a recorded speech  
10 message in the memory to be played and the rate at which the recorded speech message is to be played back. In response to the input, the playback module uses a set of decision rules to modify the specified speech message based on the speech frame parameters in the feature table associated with the specified speech message and the specified playback rate, prior to  
15 playing back the specified speech message.